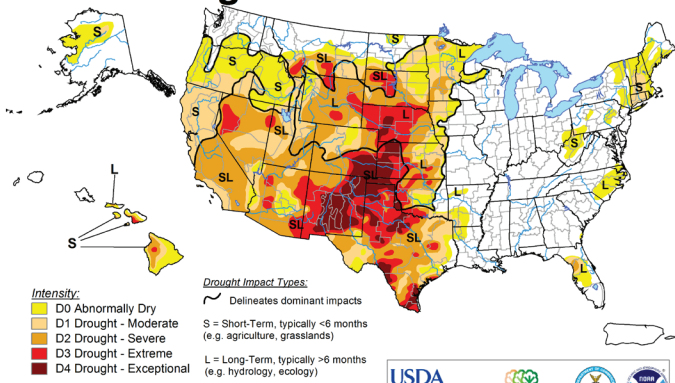


Current Drought Conditions and the Seasonal Drought Outlook

U.S. Drought Monitor

May 14, 2013
Valid 8 a.m. EDT



The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.

<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/>

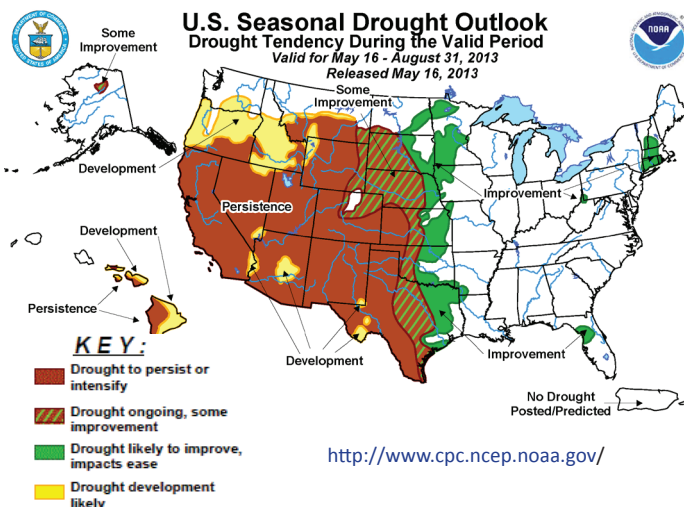


Released Thursday, May 16, 2013
Author: Rich Tinker, NOAA/NWS/NCEP/CPC

Extreme (D3) to exceptional (D4) drought continues to pose a threat to the agricultural community in the central U.S., while drought conditions continue to ease in the southeast. Exceptional drought (D4) now covers 44% of the state of New Mexico, where significant drought impacts have been observed. Moderate (D1) to exceptional drought (D4) conditions exist over 48% of the contiguous U.S.

U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook

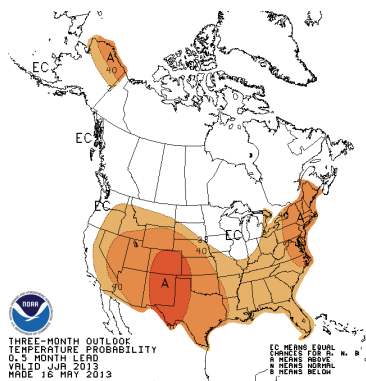
Drought Tendency During the Valid Period
Valid for May 16 - August 31, 2013
Released May 16, 2013



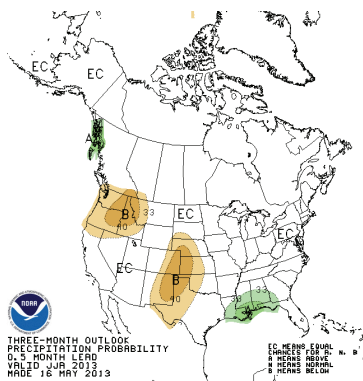
<http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/>

Drought is anticipated to intensify or persist in the West, with some possible development in Oregon and Idaho (brown and yellow shading). The Plains tend to receive most of their annual precipitation between May and August, so drought conditions are anticipated to improve in the Plains (green and hatched shading). This designation of improvement, however, does not imply elimination of drought, just a possible easing of conditions.

Temperature, Precipitation and Wildfire Outlooks



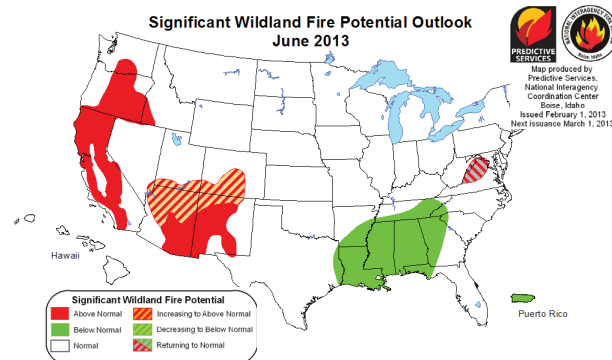
For the summer months, most of the lower 48 states are expected to have above-normal temperatures. "EC" indicates temperatures have equal chances of being below normal, normal or above normal.
(<http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov>)



Below-average precipitation is anticipated for the southern and central High Plains and the Pacific Northwest. The central Gulf Coast may receive above-normal precipitation. "EC" indicates precipitation amounts have equal chances of being below normal, normal or above normal. Summertime precipitation is more difficult to predict than springtime precipitation.

Significant Wildland Fire Potential Outlook

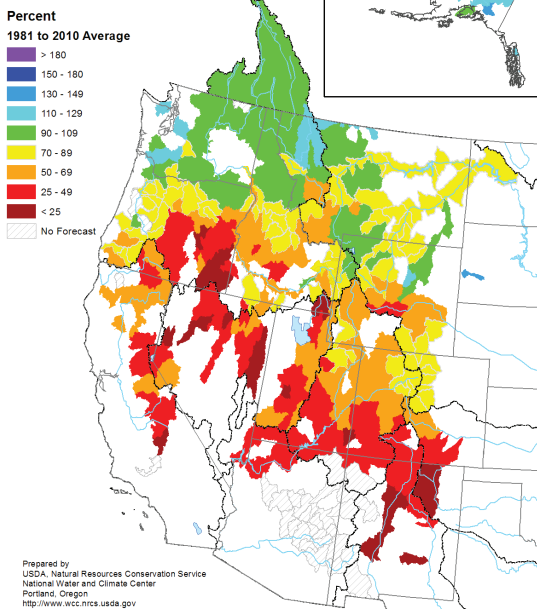
June 2013



For June 2013, significant fire potential will be above normal over much of California and Oregon, south central Washington, most of Arizona and New Mexico, and southern Utah and Colorado. Significant fire potential will remain below normal for the central Gulf states and Puerto Rico. Significant fire potential will return to normal in northern Virginia. (www.nifc.gov)

Water Resources

Spring and Summer
Streamflow Forecasts
as of May 1, 2013



Spring and Summer Streamflow Forecast

The northernmost states in the western U.S. are expected to have near-normal spring and summer streamflows. Central and southern states in the western U.S. are expected to have significantly below-average spring and summer streamflows. (http://www.wcc.nrcs.usda.gov/snowcourse/snow_map.html)

Reservoirs

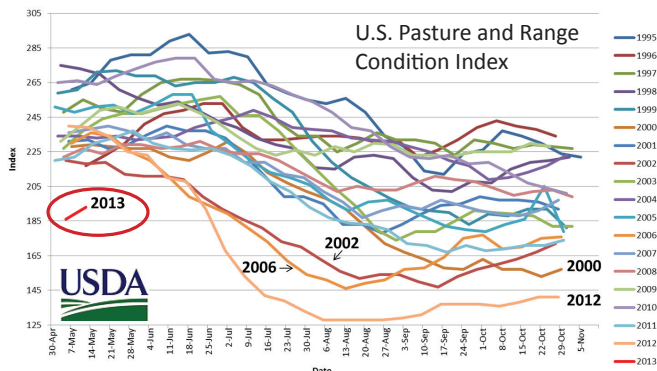
Cold temperatures delayed snowmelt in April over the northern and eastern regions of the West, keeping streams low and reservoir storage gains at a minimum.

In the West, statewide average reservoir levels show no significant changes since last month with the exception of a moderate decrease in Arizona's reservoir levels. Idaho, Montana, Utah, and Wyoming reservoirs are near normal. Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, Nevada and Oregon have below normal storage, especially Nevada and New Mexico. (<http://www.wcc.nrcs.usda.gov/cgibin/westsnowsummary.pl>)

Rivers and Lakes

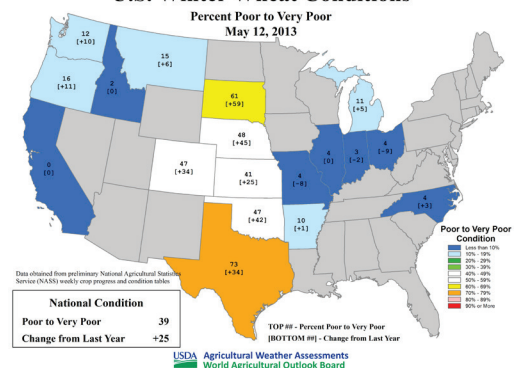
- Drought conditions in the Missouri River Basin improved in late winter and spring of 2013, particularly over the central Midwest.
- Currently most of the navigable waterways on the Mississippi River are operating under normal conditions.
- All of the Great Lakes are below long-term averages for this time of year and forecasts call for continued below-average lake levels.
- May lake levels in Central and Western Texas are below what they were during the 2011 drought (the worst single year in recorded history). The need for water conservation is being emphasized.

Agriculture



National pasture and rangeland conditions, which have been reported by USDA since 1995, are the lowest on record for this time of year. At the height of last year's drought, from July-October 2012, U.S. pasture and rangeland conditions broke records previously established in 2000, 2002, and 2006.

U.S. Winter Wheat Conditions



39% of the U.S. winter wheat was rated in very poor or poor condition on May 12, up 25% from the same time last year. Most of the drought-stressed wheat is located in the Hard Red Winter Wheat Belt, which spans the Great Plains. White, yellow and orange states have the worst winter wheat conditions.

Outlook Partners

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www.nebraskacattlemen.org
NOAA/NWS Climate Prediction Center
www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov

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NOAA/National Integrated Drought Information System
www.drought.gov
NOAA/Office of Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs
www.legislative.noaa.gov
New Mexico Office of the State Engineer
www.ose.state.nm.us
Texas Water Development Board
www.twdb.state.tx.us



US Army Corps of Engineers
www.usace.army.mil
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Western Horizons Corporation
brangus@pld.com

Summer 2013 National Drought Outlook | May 2013
www.drought.gov/portal/server.pt/community/reports
Congressional Liaison Mackenzie Tepel (mackenzie.tepel@noaa.gov)